



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**Kentucky Department of Education Contact:** Nancy Rodriguez

**Office:** (502) 564-2000, ext. 4610 | **Cell:** (502) 330-5063 | **E-mail:** [nancy.rodriguez@education.ky.gov](mailto:nancy.rodriguez@education.ky.gov)

**Valvoline Inc. Contact:** Daryl Love

**Office:** (859) 357-3136 | **Cell:** (859) 806-6635 | **E-mail:** [dklove@valvoline.com](mailto:dklove@valvoline.com)

## **2017 TEACHER OF THE YEAR TO BE NAMED; TEACHER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS RECOGNIZED**

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – On Wednesday, October 19, Valvoline, Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Education will join together to name the Kentucky Elementary Teacher of the Year, the Kentucky Middle School Teacher of the Year, the Kentucky High School Teacher of the Year, and from those the overall 2017 Kentucky Teacher of the Year. Officials also will present the 2017 Valvoline Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards to 24 teachers statewide.

**When:** Wednesday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m. ET

**Where:** The Capitol Rotunda, The State Capitol Building, Frankfort, Ky.

The 21 Teacher Achievement Award winners will each receive a cash gift of \$500; two of the three Kentucky Teacher of the Year finalists will receive a cash gift of \$3,000, and the overall Kentucky Teacher of the Year will receive a cash prize of \$10,000, along with an exciting professional development opportunity.

### **2017 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Semifinalists**

#### **Elementary school semifinalists:**

- Kim Delaney, Longbranch Elementary, Boone County
- Kellie Jones, Taylor County Elementary, Taylor County
- Jennifer C. O'Daniel, Olive Hill Elementary, Carter County

#### **Middle school semifinalists:**

- Sarah Mills, Eastside Middle School, Bullitt County
- Candida Murphy, Robert D. Campbell Jr. High, Clark County
- Brandi F. Smith, Madison Middle School, Madison County

#### **High school semifinalists:**

- Cathy Conley, Knott County Central High School, Knott County
  - Tricia Shelton, Boone County High School, Boone County
  - Ron A. Skillern, Bowling Green High School, Bowling Green Independent
- (more)

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**2017 Ashland Teacher Achievement Award Winners**

- Carren M. Cook, Kenwood Elementary School, Jefferson County
- Kim Delaney, Longbranch Elementary School, Boone County
- Donna Cheryl Howard, Whitesville Elementary School, Daviess County
- Kellie Jones, Taylor County Elementary School, Taylor County
- Stephanie Williams Laird, Heath Elementary School, McCracken County
- Jennifer C. O'Daniel, Olive Hill Elementary School, Carter County
- Elizabeth Ramey, Elkhorn City Elementary School, Pike County
- Byron Wilson, Kentucky School for the Deaf (elementary school)
- Cayeann Cowan, Robertson County School, Robertson County
- Jennifer R. Farley, Farristown Middle School, Madison County
- Alexandra Howard, Barrett Traditional Middle School, Jefferson County
- Sarah Mills, Eastside Middle School, Bullitt County
- Candida Murphy, Robert D. Campbell Jr. High School, Clark County
- Chasity Shipley, Barren County Middle School, Barren County
- Brandi F. Smith, Madison Middle School, Madison County
- Emmanuel A. Stone, Shelby County West Middle School, Shelby County
- Tammy Chapman, McCracken County High School, McCracken County
- Cathy Conley, Knott County Central High School, Knott County
- Cheryl Dicken, Campbellsville High School, Campbellsville Independent
- Kip Hottman, Fern Creek High School, Jefferson County
- Ashley Onkst, East Jessamine High School, Jessamine County
- Amanda Ratliff, Johnson Central High School, Johnson County
- Tricia Shelton, Boone County High School, Boone County
- Ron A. Skillern, Bowling Green High School, Bowling Green Independent

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